

which makes great strides in improving our Nation's health care system.

It chills the conscience to think that approximately 9 million children are currently without health insurance. An estimated 18,000 Americans died last year because they did not have access to health care, many of them sadly were children.

There can be no justice until all of our children, our most valuable resource, are granted access to the most technologically advanced system in the world.

Individuals travel from every corner of the globe to access our high-quality health care. Yet, we cannot seem to provide care to the individuals in our own backyard.

The CHAMP Act would begin to begin to change that injustice, committing \$50 billion to reauthorize and improve the State Children's Health Insurance Program, our Nation's health care safety net for low-income, uninsured children.

The Act does not expand the SCHIP benefit to wealthy children or adults, as some would argue. It merely provides benefits to the same low-income children who we originally intended to cover.

Most of the 9 million children who are currently uninsured are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP, but do not receive the benefits because of enrollment barriers and underfunding.

The CHAMP Act will lift the barriers and raise the funding so we can get our children the care they so desperately need.

It is with great enthusiasm that I support this landmark legislation. I am pleased that my colleagues have been able to rise above the political rhetoric to develop legislation that will have a significant impact for our Nation's most vulnerable children. I am also pleased that my chairman shares my commitment to improving children's access to dental care. The chairman recognizes, as I do, that oral health is an overall component of overall health, and we cannot afford to ignore the dental health needs of our children.

I applaud efforts to include a dental benefits package and dental quality assurance methods in the CHAMP Act. I also want to thank the chairman and of my fellow colleagues from Maryland, including Congressman Albert Wynn, for their support of two initiatives that I had promoted to increase children's access to dental care under this legislation.

The first would allow federally qualified health centers to contract with private-practice dentists, significantly enhancing our Nation's dental safety net. The second one requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide educational materials to new mothers on the importance of oral health and the services available to their children, with the goal of stopping dental disease before it even starts. Both initiatives will cost little or nothing, while yielding excellent results for our children.

Congressman WYNN and I know the importance of protecting our children from dental disease. It was a short 5 months ago that a 12-year-old Maryland boy died when an untreated tooth infection spread to his brain. Forty dollars worth of dental care might have saved his life, but he never got that opportunity.

As I have said before, Deamonte Driver's case was rare and extreme, but he was by no means alone in his suffering. Dental disease is the single most common chronic disease in this country, and it is preventable.

Finally, all it takes on our part is the will to protect our children. I am pleased that so many Members of Congress have demonstrated this will, and I encourage all my colleagues to support the vitally important CHAMP Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALTMIRE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FIGHTING CRIME AND HELPING WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we have had under consideration the Commerce, Justice and Science appropriations legislation, which has a far-reaching impact on a number of issues that America and Americans are facing today. All over America we have seen statistics for crime going up, major cities being impacted, and particularly seeing the numbers of law enforcement officers stretched to the ultimate. In fact, in my own City of Houston, big billboards say, Dallas, bonus for police officers who will relocate to Dallas.

At the same time, Houston is seeing a sizeable drop in the law enforcement officers that are able to patrol the street, losing almost 1,000 to 1,200. More funding is needed. That is why I applaud today the increased funding and the refunding for Community Oriented Policing Services, \$725 million, \$693 million over the President's request and \$183 million above 2007.

Frankly, we had eliminated, under this administration and the past Congress, the Community Oriented Policing process. I know it firsthand, be-

cause our former chief of police and former mayor of the City of Houston could be considered the father of community-oriented policing; that is chief, former mayor, Lee P. Brown. We saw the results of such a program when police persons knew the neighborhood; they knew the good guys and the bad guys.

It was a mistake, a wrong-headed mistake, for this administration to drastically cut the cops-on-the-beat program. It works. It works for hamlets in rural areas. It works for big cities and middle-sized cities and small cities. I am glad this bill focuses on restoring to the American public the law enforcement it needs. I hope as we move to the other body and build this bill, that the President will sign increased funding for more officers who know the community and can enforce the law.

We need to bring the crime statistics down and help to save lives. Hijacking and carjacking of cars, busting into homes, drug running is taking over our communities because of the lack of law enforcement that know the community and are able to be trusted by the community.

Let me also note the fact that we have funded, in addition to the amendments passed today, the Women Against Violence Act and the Office of Violence Against Women Act. I was very pleased, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, to be one of those who helped reauthorize the VAWA Act, which now is being funded over these years.

It is crucial that, in addition to providing for a Violence Against Women program to the United States, that we also include protecting immigrant women who sometimes are left destitute because their immigrant husband is abusing them, and they then become unstated because the husband has left them. This is a very important program as well.

Let me cite the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, \$400 million, \$62 million above 2007. It speaks to some of the crises that we are facing in the juvenile justice system. It is a wrong-headed system, more incarceration than rehabilitation. We need to direct these funds to do more rehabilitation and to be able to steer our children in the right direction.

It is more than important as well, as we fund the Federal Bureau of Prisons, that we study the question of the early release program for nonviolent prisoners. I hope to offer such an amendment. Our prisons are overcrowded. We have the largest number of incarcerated persons, but it is well known that because of the mandatory sentencing, we have individuals who are, in fact, incarcerated who can be released. Let us find a pathway to studying the early release of prisoners in the Federal system, and I am looking forward to putting such an amendment forward.

As a strong proponent of the National Foundation for Science, science